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UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND
Programme Committee
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FOR ACTION

MULTI-ISLAND PROGRAMME RECOMMENDATION*

The Executive Director recommends that the Executive Board approve the multi-island programme of the Eastern Caribbean (covering Antigua and Barbuda, the British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Turks and Caicos Islands) for the period 1993-1997 in the amount of $5,100,000 from general resources, subject to the availability of funds, and $5,000,000 in supplementary funds, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions.

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* In order to meet documentation deadlines, the present document was prepared before aggregate financial data were finalized. Final adjustments, taking into account unspent balances of programme cooperation at the end of 1991, will be contained in the "Summary of 1992 recommendations for general resources and supplementary funding programmes" (E/ICEF/1992/P/L.2 and Add.1).

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THE SITUATION OF CHILDREN AND WOMEN

1. The multi-island programme covers nine English-speaking countries of the Eastern Caribbean, namely Antigua and Barbuda, the British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and the Turks and Caicos Islands. They have an aggregate land area of 3,492 square kilometres and a total population of 596,000, including an estimated 80,000 children under five years of age. Six of the countries are independent, while three - the British Virgin Islands, Montserrat and Turks and Caicos Islands - are British dependencies.

2. During the 1970s and 1980s, most of the island economies experienced positive growth rates. On average, per capita gross national product (GNP) for 1988 was 36 per cent higher than in 1980 and ranged in the independent countries from $4,048 in Antigua and Barbuda to $1,177 in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. None the less, the economies remain open, dependent and vulnerable to changes generated from the international context. Added to this are the constraints they face owing to their small size, limited resource endowments and vulnerability to hurricanes.

3. With the passage of Hurricane Hugo in 1989, this reality was amply demonstrated, particularly in the devastation meted out to agriculture, housing, schools, hospitals, clinics and tourism infrastructure in Montserrat. Recovery from the ravages of a hurricane is a slow process, with the economic impact being particularly severe on the ability of the Government to finance additional expenditures. The net result is a cutback in public spending and further erosion of the gross domestic product.

4. Over 40 per cent of the population in the countries is under 15 years of age. The percentage of households headed by women exceeds 40 per cent and is as high as 80 per cent in poverty areas which are concentrated in pockets throughout the islands. These areas also experience very high unemployment, high rates of teenage pregnancy and sometimes high rates of malnutrition.

5. The effects of maternal and child health (MCH) programmes on the survival and quality of life of children in the Eastern Caribbean appear to have been considerable. Infant mortality rates (IMRs), which fluctuated between 75 and 175 per 1,000 live births in the 1940s and 1950s, fell to less than 20 per 1,000 (composite rate for all nine countries) in the late 1980s. The major strides in reducing IMRs have occurred in the post-neonatal period, with the period surrounding birth still being the most vulnerable for the survival of the child. In Grenada, for example, 75 per cent of infant deaths in 1988 occurred in the neonatal period; in Antigua and Barbuda the figure was 90 per cent. According to figures provided by the Antiguan Ministry of Health, an average of one third of neonatal deaths occur within hours of birth, and slightly more than half occur before the infants are two days old. Stillbirths are also a problem and actually exceed infant deaths in some cases, indicating, in the majority of cases, inadequate antenatal care. Only rare cases of maternal mortality are now recorded in the Eastern Caribbean.

6. In a recent 1988 Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)/World Health Organization (WHO) publication that reviewed progress in child survival in the Caribbean, it was observed that in almost all countries the sharp decline in infant mortality was followed by an equally sharp decline in birth rates, with a lag of about 8-10 years. In 1960, most of the nine countries had a birth rate of between 40 and 50 per 1,000 population. By 1980, those figures had dropped to under 30 births per 1,000 population, with two countries recording less than 20.

7. Moderate and severe malnutrition rates in the Eastern Caribbean have been steadily declining over the past three decades, but the problem still persists in low income areas throughout the islands. A related area of concern is low birth weight, which appears to be positively correlated with the age of the mother. During the period 1985-1988, more than one third of the low-birth-weight babies were born to teenage mothers.

8. The expanded programme on immunization (EPI) is an integral part of all MCH programmes and the level of achievement has been extremely good. By the end of 1989, the percentage of children under one year of age fully immunized in all but one of the countries exceeded the 80 per cent universal immunization target.

9. The Caribbean region as a whole has one of the highest densities of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) cases in the world and Governments are very concerned about the increasing incidence of AIDS and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. Analysis of transmission routes demonstrates a shift from homosexually or bisexually acquired HIV infection to mainly heterosexual transmission. Thus, the ratio of infected females has been increasing rapidly. This has led to fears of an increase in the present level of paediatric AIDS cases and an accompanying rise in infant and child mortality.

10. Primary education is mandatory in all nine countries for children between the ages of 5 and 15 years. Attendance levels are not as high as they should be, however, particularly in poor areas where children are often withdrawn from school to help in seasonal labour. Absences also occur because of a lack of school shoes, clothing or lunch money, especially among those children from economically hard-pressed, households headed by women.

11. Pre-schools in the Eastern Caribbean are mainly privately run and government regulated. On average, about 50 per cent of children in the three- to five-year age-group attend pre-school, although in some countries, such as Saint Kitts and Nevis and Saint Lucia, the figure is as low as 28 per cent. Most teachers are female and the majority of them are untrained. The main reason for non-attendance at pre-school is usually the high cost of tuition. Most of the children are cared for by female relatives or friends of the child's mother, or by the mothers themselves if they are not working outside the home.

12. The last census (1980-1981) revealed that the mean age of mothers at child-bearing varied from 25 to 28 years. Children born to mothers in their teens (i.e., 15-19 years) presently range from 19 per cent in Grenada to 25 per cent in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. These high rates of childbirth to teenage mothers give rise to many problems at individual and societal levels. These include the fact that the mother's education usually ends with her pregnancy and she must bring up her child alone without the qualifications or training to find employment. Her low level of income, linked to the lack of parenting skills, mean that the circumstances of her child's upbringing are characterized by poverty and emotional instability. Many women in this situation are led into a series of impermanent unions with successive partners who may provide only temporary support.

13. A matter of growing concern is the number of cases of child abuse that occur across the Eastern Caribbean. Increased public awareness and reporting of cases has unmasked a more realistic picture of the problem, but its full extent still remains unclear. Meanwhile, there is limited provision for rescue facilities and treatment centres and very few staff with specialized training to maintain the necessary contact with victims and the alleged perpetrators. Practical and active approaches are being used in which workers respond to initial crises but may be unable to maintain contact on a long-term basis.

14. The nine countries enjoy a highly developed communication and information environment, with each one having its own radio and television stations as well as weekly newspapers. While international programmes dominate television schedules, radio stations and newspapers remain decidedly Caribbean in content and flavour. The audience is sophisticated and has a high literacy rate, although perceived increases in female illiteracy in some islands give cause for concern. Other important channels of communication, aside from formal education and extension workers in health, education, agriculture, etc., are church groups, local, national and regional non-governmental organizations (NGOs), intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) and "affinity" groups such as the Commonwealth. Artists and intellectuals, singers, musicians and community theatre groups have all shown enthusiasm for contributing their talents to the service of children by disseminating information, airing relevant issues and contributing to change the climate of public opinion.

PROGRAMME COOPERATION, 1988-1992

15. The performance of the current multi-island programme which commenced in 1988, is characterized by a change of programme emphasis away from the supply of goods and services on a country-by-country basis to the provision of knowledge, information and skills conducted increasingly through area or subregional approaches. The particular challenges and opportunities presented by the diverse and complex programming environment of the Caribbean demand that the problems of children and women be addressed with innovative, flexible and cost-effective ways that are articulated by an effective external relations strategy. Such a strategy also maximizes the modest financial resources available.

16. Although most of the "conventional" threats to child survival are no longer of priority concern in the subregion, with IMRs less than 20 per 1,000 live births in some countries, other "survival" threats such as AIDS require urgent and concerted attention. Moreover, the continued high incidence of teenage pregnancy, poor and indifferent parenting and young child care, increased incidence of child abuse and lack of economic opportunities for women, especially the high proportion who are the sole providers for their families, are all threats to continuing improvement in the quality of life. Faced with such a challenge, a variety of channels, networks and alliances in the subregion have been fully mobilized in an attempt to change behaviour and lifestyles, particularly among adolescents of both sexes.

17. The multi-island programme attempts to address the problems of children and women through a two-tiered, country-specific/subregional approach. The country-specific thrust addresses the particular problems of individual islands as well as those problems that are more amenable to local or community action, such as poverty alleviation. Direct inputs of supplies, equipment and finance are made to enable effective implementation where needs exist at project level. The subregional thrust is largely concerned with the promotion of "global" themes such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child, education for all, the World Summit for Children and the mobilization of networks in the area, e.g. parliamentarians, regional IGOs/NGOs, regional media houses, etc. New interventions relative to teenage pregnancy, AIDS, child abuse and the promotion of technical cooperation among developing countries between and beyond the multi-island programme countries have also been introduced as subregional activities. In all cases, the two-pronged approach is mutually supportive, with advocacy and social mobilization also featuring prominently in country-level activities.

Country-level activities

18. The multi-island programme is helping island health ministries to strengthen their services in order to improve antenatal and post-natal care. Parent education and counselling programmes are part of this effort, as is the promotion of growth monitoring and the support of nutrition education, with emphasis on breast-feeding. In addition, EPI has been assisted as part of the subregion's successful efforts in attaining universal child immunization.

19. The problem of AIDS is being addressed primarily through the subregional communications strategy. Targeting teenagers in an attempt to establish safer and more responsible sexual behaviour patterns and make them aware of the possible consequences of casual and unprotected sex has the dual objective of preventing teenage pregnancies and reducing the risk of HIV transmission and other sexually transmitted diseases. One of the innovative approaches in this respect has been the use of community theatre, posters, comic books and animated cartoons aimed at an adolescent audience with messages on AIDS, teenage pregnancies and drug abuse. Multi-island programme support to nutrition activities has been largely through the UNICEF/WHO joint nutrition support programme, implemented in collaboration with PAHO and the Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute (CFNI) on four islands - Dominica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. Evaluations

carried out in Dominica and Saint Vincent, where the programme has now officially ended, showed that the objectives of improving primary health care (PHC) and nutrition in poor communities were largely met.

20. Programme objectives in early childhood development have focused on improving both the coverage and quality of pre-school services which are run largely by the community or private sector on all nine islands. This has involved the upgrading of untrained or partially qualified teachers through short courses and longer and more formal training for supervisory and training personnel. Assistance has also been provided for policy development and the establishment of common government-enforceable standards at privately run pre-schools.

21. The early childhood development intervention is an important element in the overall thrust towards better parenting. Better parenting is promoted through various channels and parenting workshops are a feature of almost every island's programme activities. These are usually informal evening sessions where basic child care and parenting skills are taught. Most workshops try to involve fathers as well. Radio is an important channel and assistance has also been provided for the development of parenting video-tapes by the Jamaican-based Caribbean Child Development Centre for use in the nine countries and throughout the Caribbean.

22. The multi-island programme has continued to support country-level women in development activities aimed primarily at skills training for income-generation among teenage mothers, most of whom dropped out of school when they became pregnant. An evaluation of income-generation projects in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines revealed that even where they were unsuccessful in terms of generating income, they provided poor women with skills and fulfilled a need for self-confidence and self-esteem. At the subregional level, a woman in development officer has been active in highlighting the main concerns of women at regional forums, and in providing technical advice and assistance to Governments and NGOs alike in developing action plans for raising the social and economic status of women.

Subregional-level activities

23. A complex strategy of advocacy and social mobilization operates at the subregional level. One of the main features of the strategy has been the completion of situation analyses on the status of children and women in all multi-island programme countries in order to obtain data not only for planning, but also for advocacy, fund-raising and the identification of further areas requiring research. The studies have also been a source of baseline information for the Summit goals and have guided countries to adapt the goals to their individual situations.

24. In the area of media relations, a system that ensures a regular two-way flow of information through electronic and print media has been developed under an agreement signed by the Caribbean News Agency (CANA), the Caribbean Broadcasting Union (CBU) and UNICEF. The agreement includes regular in-depth radio and television features, public service announcements and wire service

coverage of important issues and special events. Programme partners are the resource persons for these programmes, and there is strong emphasis on getting audience feedback and participation. Alliances with performing artists are also important and include support to the Sistren Theatre Collective whose performances and workshops deal with such social problems as teenage pregnancy, domestic violence and AIDS. The quarterly newsletter "Children in Focus", which contains reports, features and interviews on issues related to the welfare of children and women, has been an ideal medium for advocacy on such topics as the World Summit for Children, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and education for all. It has a mailing list of 3,000, including politicians, church leaders, development workers and health and education professionals both within and outside the region. It also serves as a major instrument for technical cooperation among developing countries.

25. In the field of art and film animation, a four-minute animated cartoon film on the Facts for Life message of safe motherhood has been produced and a "Safe Motherhood" instruction booklet using stills from the film has been prepared. A pocket comic book and short cartoon video on "Making Measles History" has also been prepared for teenagers. In addition, a film animation workshop supported by Walt Disney Animation was organized in Jamaica to train local artists. Further advances in this area offer vast potential for the empowerment of people with limited interest in reading.

26. Alliances have also been formed with a vast range of partners ranging from Commonwealth parliamentarians and religious bodies to community organizations and individuals such as artists and intellectuals. Each of the nine multi-island programme countries also has a full set of national institutions including parliaments, government ministries, NGOs, regional and international partners, service organizations, churches, philanthropists, suppliers, media, artists, parents, adolescents and children, all of whom form a constituency for alliances, present and potential. Cooperation with United Nations agencies is an essential part of the subregional strategy and has especially involved working closely with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), PAHO, the World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

Lessons learned

27. Prior to the annual programme review meeting in October 1990, participants were asked to consult with colleagues involved in the implementation of the multi-island programme at the country level in order to determine the lessons learned from past and current performance, as well as the ingredients for a successful 1993-1997 programme. This exercise revealed that UNICEF partners endorsed the concentration of assistance in underserved areas and that beneficiaries should participate in identifying their own needs. Early planning was also considered important and the involvement of all implementing agencies in this process was seen as a necessary element. It was felt that objectives for the new programme should be set realistically, taking into account human and financial resource constraints, and that adequate provision should be made for monitoring and evaluation in order to

measure progress. The need for more feasibility and viability studies was also an important lesson to be learned and applied in the future. On the operational side, it was felt that flexibility to make changes during the course of programme implementation was important, as was close interministerial coordination and cooperation.

Programme preparation process

28. Preparation for the new programme commenced with a mid-term review meeting in October 1990 which involved government personnel from each of the nine countries. Individual country situation analyses were then carried out and this was followed by a strategy meeting in April 1991 that was attended by high-level UNICEF staff as well as Caribbean child welfare professionals who proposed refinements to certain areas of the proposed strategy. Colleagues from major United Nations and bilateral agencies and partners from media organizations also participated. This exercise was followed by a series of meetings in each country where the findings of the situation analyses and the proposed programme objectives and strategy were further discussed and refined with input from relevant government and non-governmental staff.

29. In November 1991, a Caribbean Summit for Children was held in Barbados. At this Summit, children delegates from all over the Caribbean voiced their views on the Caribbean Summit and World Summit for Children goals. Those views were subsequently presented to their respective heads of State.

30. In the course of the above-mentioned process, World Summit for Children goals were adapted to individual country situations and the role of the multi-island programme in supporting achievement of the goals was clearly defined. The adaptation of World Summit for Children goals also constituted an important step in the formulation of individual national programmes of action.

RECOMMENDED PROGRAMME COOPERATION, 1993-1997

Recommended general resources: $5,100,000
Supplementary funding: $5,000,000

Recommended programme cooperation a/

(In thousands of United States dollars)

	General resources	Supplementary funds b/	Total
Health and nutrition	1 125	1 000	2 125
Basic education	900	1 000	1 900
Women in development	275	1 000	1 275
Children in especially difficult circumstances	150	1 000	1 150
Social mobilization	1 050	1 000	2 050
Monitoring and evaluation	550	-	550
Programme support	1 050		1 050
Total	5 100	5 000	10 100

a/ The breakdown for estimated yearly expenditures is given in table 2.

b/ In addition, there are also funded supplementary funding projects shown in table 2.

31. The main thrust of the new programme will be aimed at improving the quality of life of children and women in the Eastern Caribbean. While attention will still be paid to sustaining the area's advances in child survival, the primary emphasis will be on child care, development and protection. Underlying this thrust is the belief that the key to improved child well-being is better parenting. Better parenting means better physical, emotional and intellectual development for the child; better health care, education and life skills; and protection from physical, sexual and emotional abuse. Better parenting leads to more stable adolescents, fewer teenage pregnancies and less drug abuse. It is basic to the achievement of all of the objectives of the programme and is the one strategy that underpins every other strategy in the programme. Better parenting requires that the principle of a "first call" for children be recognized at both individual and societal levels. While the World Summit for Children goals establish the broad agenda,

it is the strategy of better parenting - itself the operationalization of the Convention on the Rights of the Child - requiring key and coordinated intervention through health, education, law and information, that is expected to lead to the realization of the programme objectives.

32. Each of the nine countries has a separate set of objectives related to each individual country situation and they also share a number of common objectives. The more important ones include: (a) the reduction of IMRs, the reduction of maternal mortality, the elimination of measles from the Caribbean by 1995 and the control and prevention of AIDS; (b) expansion of early childhood education activities among children under five years of age, including the introduction of innovative media support in homes and early childhood education facilities, and the reduction in adult illiteracy, especially among women; (c) reduction of teenage pregnancies and increased access to credit and skills training by poor women in order to broaden their economic opportunities; and (d) enactment of legislation to prevent children from being victims of physical and emotional violence, neglect, sexual abuse and drug and alcohol addiction.

33. Political, cultural and social institutions and individuals, including the mass media, churches, labour and professional organizations, artists and intellectuals, will be mobilized to allocate more workers, time and energy to help create new knowledge, attitudes and behaviours among individual parents and parents-to-be in support of better parenting. A further prime objective will be the mobilization of all sources of potential support - national and international, political, social, financial, cultural, legal and mass media - for the achievement of goals set out in the World Summit for Children national programmes of action.

34. The two-tiered programming approach outlined in paragraph 17 above will continue to be implemented. On the one hand, country-specific projects are formulated to address particular situations. Inputs of supplies, equipment and finance are made to ease implementation constraints of such projects as EPI, nutrition, income-generation for women, the training of pre-school teachers and other activities. Meanwhile, at the subregional level, activities designed to impact upon common problems and to promote innovative child development activities are put in place. Subregional activities concern primarily advocacy, communications, information and technical cooperation among developing countries. Thus, common problems such as AIDS and child abuse, advocacy on better parenting and on global themes such as the World Summit for Children, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and education for all, are approached from a subregional perspective.

35. Within the two-tiered framework, a mix of strategies will be applied cross-sectorally and in individual programme areas, with the general underlying theme of "better parenting". Chief among those will be the promotion of self-reliance and technical cooperation among developing countries. Concentrating resources on poor and underserved areas in an attempt to reduce disparities and the mobilization of communities to enable them to participate in their own development will also be important. Participation is a key element in all aspects of the programme since it

increases sustainability and is a basic ingredient in better parenting. Empowering both women and men for development through various channels is also part of the participatory approach. In order to achieve the multi-island programme objectives, the following programmes and activities will be supported within the framework of the programme strategy.

Health and nutrition

36. An analysis of data on infant mortality reveals that the period surrounding birth is the most vulnerable for the survival of the newborn child, with up to 90 per cent of infant deaths occurring in the neonatal period. According to the Antigua Health Ministry, slightly more than half of the number of neonatal deaths occur before infants are two days old. Stillbirths are also a problem and actually exceed infant deaths in some countries. It is clear that improvements need to be made in perinatal care and services if progress in IMR and low-birth-weight reduction is to be sustained. Support will therefore be provided to train health staff involved in the delivery of care in the antenatal, intrapartum and post-natal periods. Other areas of support will be in the provision of appropriate supplies and equipment, the conduct of small operational research projects as well as education and information programmes for women on the importance of antenatal and post-natal care as well as the avoidance of high-risk pregnancies.

37. Building on the high immunization coverage rates already achieved in the subregion, the Caribbean has set a goal for measles elimination by 1995 (PAHO, 1989), in addition to achieving and sustaining 100 per cent coverage for other antigens. Support will be provided primarily for EPI social mobilization activities, including materials development and dissemination, media productions and the training of personnel. The provision of vaccination supplies and cold-chain equipment for health centres will also be included.

38. Although most multi-island programme countries do not experience severe malnutrition problems, growth monitoring and nutrition education and surveillance continue to be essential elements in maintaining and improving the nutrition situation. The service training of nursing and nutrition staff will form an integral part of programme activities in addition to the proper collection, interpretation and retrieval of nutrition information.

39. Emphasis will be placed on the promotion of breast-feeding, which presently shows a sharp decline in the first three months, after a high initiation rate. "Baby-friendly" hospitals will be encouraged and attention will be given to monitoring compliance with the International Code of Marketing of Breast Milk Substitutes. Advocacy will be intensified with Governments and employers to provide longer maternity leave and facilitate day-care centres at the work place to enable mothers to breast-feed their children at frequent intervals. Iron deficiency anaemia is a fairly widespread problem that will also be addressed.

40. AIDS is a growing area of concern in the Caribbean and is perceived as a major threat to the advances made in reducing infant and child mortality in the subregion. The ratio of infected females has been increasing rapidly and

with it the attendant danger of perinatal transmission of the virus. In this situation, a broad range of measures will continue to be supported in an attempt to control the spread of the disease. Emphasis will be placed on public education and the dissemination of information aimed especially at teenagers, with a view to increasing a sense of personal risk of contracting the disease. Methods will include the mobilization of popular entertainers in rap, dub, reggae and calypso, as well as other performers who can positively influence the sexual behaviour of adolescents. Extensive use will be made of the mass media to reach the general public and an AIDS newsletter targeted at teenage schoolchildren will be published. Other measures will include the training of health workers, youth leaders, respected community members and others who come in contact with and can influence safe sexual behaviour among adolescents. Promoting the integration of AIDS prevention and control into the PHC structure, including community-based care for AIDS patients, will also be important. In addition, support will be provided for research on the knowledge, attitudes and sexual practices that have a bearing on AIDS transmission.

41. The lack of safe means of excreta disposal and the disposal of refuse is a problem in a large number of lower-income areas throughout the Caribbean. In such areas, support will be provided for the installation of low-cost pit latrines, with the active involvement of the community and beneficiary families. Appropriate low-cost sanitation schemes such as community refuse collection in suburban and rural areas, as well as the value of personal hygiene and the benefits of a clean home and surroundings, will be promoted.

Education

42. In multi-island programme countries, less than 60 per cent of children under five years of age are covered by the early childhood development activities. Pre-schools accept children three to five years of age and formal facilities for the care of children under the age of three years are almost non-existent. Therefore, improving the quality of early childhood development will require focusing not only on pre-schools, but also on those taking care of younger children in the family or in the homes of friends.

43. Early childhood development activities will be assisted through the promotion of better parenting in the community, through the media and through programmes in association with NGOs, local organizations and religious bodies. Support for the development of children's television programmes (along the model of "Sesame Street") will be provided for use in pre-schools, day-care centres, community child-care facilities and children's homes. In-country training workshops and seminars for pre-school teachers as well as more advanced level training for supervisory level staff will be part of the effort to improve the quality of pre-school services. In addition, the local development and production of appropriate resource materials, together with the application of minimum standards in service provision, will be supported. In addition to early childhood activities, literacy programmes aimed primarily at illiterate women, will also be supported as part of the subregion's commitment to the goals of education for all.

Women in development

44. Approximately 40 per cent of households in the Caribbean are headed by women, the majority of them single, unskilled and with families to support. The promotion of skills training and income-generating activities for those women will be an important aspect of the programme, as will arrangements for access to credit facilities to finance start-up operations and other essential costs. Support will also be provided for the legal protection of women through reviews and updating of laws pertaining to such issues as domestic violence, rape and child support. An associated activity will be the dissemination of information to women regarding the laws that are in place for their protection. Education programmes and other measures aimed at reducing the existing high rates of teenage pregnancy will also be supported. Counselling programmes will be carried out in schools and youth clubs on the negative aspects of teenage pregnancy and all media channels will be used to sensitize the general public, particularly teenage boys and girls, about the negative societal consequences of teenage pregnancies. Such counselling, education and information activities will be integrated with the communications strategies on AIDS education described above. Other aspects of the programme will include remedial education for teenage mothers who had to drop out of school as well as skills training to help them become self-sufficient. In addition, education for better parenting, including young child care and nutrition, will focus on teenage mothers.

Children in especially difficult circumstances

45. The dramatic rise in reported cases of child abuse throughout the Caribbean has called for a programme of action that entails the empowerment of welfare institutions, parents and community groups in legal, educational and therapeutic fields. In this context support will be provided for research into the causes of child abuse in order to design programmes to more effectively address the problem. Reviews and updating of laws pertaining to the protection of children will also be undertaken and their provisions made known to parents and communities. Support will be provided for the development of appropriate educational materials for use in the mass media as well as in workshops and seminars for service providers such as teachers, health personnel and social workers. The cross-sectoral range of activities aimed at better parenting is also expected to impact positively on the problem of child abuse in terms of raising awareness among parents and communities to increase protection of the most vulnerable children in society.

Social mobilization

46. With a well-developed communications network and a large number of well-established national and regional institutions - governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental - the Caribbean presents many opportunities for effective social mobilization in support of the goals of the multi-island programme, the World Summit for Children and national programmes of action. Major social mobilization activities will include the strengthening of advocacy and information, particularly through the Caribbean Multi-Media Support Programme which transmits in-depth radio and television

features, public service announcements and wire service reports through CANA and CBU. The programme will be extended to include the other two major media organizations, the Caribbean Mass Media Workers Organization and the Caribbean Publishers and Broadcasting Association.

47. The quarterly newsletter "Children in Focus", which contains reports, features and interviews on issues related to children and women, will continue to be published and distributed to politicians, church leaders, NGOs, development workers, and health and education professionals throughout the region on such topics as follow-up to the Caribbean Summit, national programmes of action and implementing the Convention on the Rights of the Child. In addition to its role in advocacy and information dissemination, the newsletter will also continue to be a major instrument for the promotion of technical cooperation among the multi-island programme countries and the countries of the broader Caribbean. Activities such as exchange visits, sharing of expertise and experiences, and networking on issues of common concern will be vigorously promoted as part of a policy of self-reliance in the multi-island programme countries. These activities will be facilitated by regional meetings, seminars, workshop exchanges and the use of regional media.

48. Support will also continue to be provided for the promotion of development-oriented comic books containing messages for young people on the dangers of illegal drugs, early pregnancies, sexually transmitted diseases and AIDS. Messages will also attempt to foster a responsible attitude towards future parenting. Similarly, further development of an animated cartoon film will aim at influencing the public, including people with limited reading interest, in altering behaviours and attitudes where these may be detrimental to the health, safety and the general well-being of the individual and society as a whole.

49. Alliances with performing artists will include continued support to the Sistren Theatre Collective whose performances draw attention to such social problems as teenage pregnancy, domestic violence and AIDS. Other allies will continue to include rap groups, calypsonians and poets who use their popularity to raise awareness of social problems and convey appropriate advice and messages in an informal and interactive setting. In addition to media organizations, alliances will also be strengthened with partners ranging from parliamentarians and religious bodies to community organizations and artists and intellectuals. The large number of non-governmental, intergovernmental, bilateral and regional bodies operating in the Caribbean with which UNICEF cooperates include the Caribbean Community, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Caribbean Conference of Churches. Close collaboration with other United Nations agencies such as UNDP, PAHO, WFP and UNESCO will also be an important part of the social mobilization strategy. Each of the nine multi-island programme countries also has a full set of national institutions with whom UNICEF cooperates at the country level.

Monitoring, evaluation and research

50. Monitoring the progress of programme implementation for management purposes will take place in a variety of ways. In-country reviews will be held during field visits by UNICEF staff. A programme review meeting, bringing together project implementors from each of the nine islands, resource persons and UNICEF staff, will continue to be organized on an annual basis. Systematic and frequent follow-up on project performance and output will also be strengthened. Monitoring progress towards the objectives of both multi-island programme and national programmes of action for children will be facilitated by developing strategic alliances with monitoring bodies, e.g., the Caribbean Epidemiological Centre for immunization coverage and statistics on AIDS incidence, ministries of health for annual mortality and morbidity figures, etc.

51. An evaluation of the better parenting component of the social mobilization programme will be undertaken midway through the programme cycle. Evaluations of the children in especially difficult circumstances and women in development programmes will also be carried out in 1995.

52. The situation analyses conducted in each of the nine multi-island programme countries have identified problem areas that require additional research in order to gain a deeper insight into their causes and identify possible means of addressing them. UNICEF will cooperate with institutions and individuals undertaking important research work and, where necessary, either directly sponsor or mobilize funds for key research studies. Emphasis will be placed on participatory research models, with community involvement wherever possible. The availability of data from the census carried out in each multi-island programme country in 1991 will facilitate a considerable amount of the research work. Among the areas that require further study are: real incidence of maternal mortality; magnitude of child abuse and underlying causal factors; the extent of HIV in the population; patterns of parenting behaviours; the extent of adult illiteracy; and the extent to which media messages on child survival, development and protection are reaching target audiences. Any activities that arise as a result of research carried out will, of necessity, take into account existing interventions and build upon them. Support will also be provided for the dissemination of findings to all relevant and interested parties.

Programme support

53. Programme funds are budgeted to ensure adequate technical and administrative support for programme planning, implementation, administration, advocacy and monitoring and evaluation. This will be achieved through the deployment of project staff in certain sectoral areas and the use of technical consultants on a temporary basis for specific thematic issues. Since the Caribbean Area Office is based in Barbados, this budget also includes travel costs involved in monitoring activities in nine islands.

Inter-agency cooperation

54. Cooperation with United Nations agencies referred to in paragraph 26 above will continue to be an essential part of the multi-island programme strategy. To this end, coordination will be strengthened with PAHO/WHO and UNFPA in areas related to health and nutrition. Collaboration with UNESCO and other United Nations partners will also be an important element of the better parenting social mobilization strategy.

TABLE 1. EXPENDITURE UNDER PREVIOUS COOPERATION PERIOD, 1988-1992 a/

(In thousands of United States dollars)

COUNTRY: EASTERN CARIBBEAN
LATEST BOARD APPROVAL: 1988
GENERAL RESOURCES: $3,439,000

	Supplies and equipment (incl. freight)		Training grants		Project staff		Other cash		Totals		
	GR	FSF	GR	FSF	GR	FSF	GR	FSF	GR	FSF	Total
Health	190	39	8	5	49		195	10	442	54	496
Water supply and sanitation	21	1	11				7		39	1	40
Nutrition	19	39	14	1			55	11	88	51	139
Education	192	2	176	3	11		162	40	541	45	586
Community organization and development	12		59	37		72	26	34	97	143	240
Women-centred programme	10	1	39	31		44	8	13	57	91	148
Advocacy	14	1	3				481		498	1	499
Emergency	24								24		24
Planning and project support	13	2	22		574		219	5	828	7	835
Freight	15	3							15	3	18
GRAND TOTAL	510	88	332	77	634	118	1153	113	2629	396	3025

GR = General resources.
FSF = Funded supplementary funding.
a/ Current programme cycle covers the period 1988-1992, but actual expenditure figures are only available through 1991.

TABLE 2. PLANNED EXPENDITURE, 1993-1997

(In thousands of United States dollars)

Country: EASTERN CARIBBEAN Period covered: 1993-1997	Funding status	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	Total
Health and nutrition	GR	225	225	225	225	225	1125
	NSF	200	200	200	200	200	1000
Education	GR	180	180	180	180	180	900
	NSF	200	200	200	200	200	1000
Women-centred programme	GR	95	45	45	45	45	275
	NSF	200	200	200	200	200	1000
Children in especially difficult circumstances	GR	70	20	20	20	20	150
	NSF	200	200	200	200	200	1000
Social mobilization and advocacy	GR	210	210	210	210	210	1050
	NSF	200	200	200	200	200	1000
Planning and social statistics	GR	110	110	110	110	110	550
Programme support	GR	210	210	210	210	210	1050
TOTAL	GR	1100	1000	1000	1000	1000	5100
	NSF	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	5000
GRAND TOTAL		2100	2000	2000	2000	2000	10100

GR = General resources.
NSF = New supplementary funding.

TABLE 3. STAFFING FROM BUDGET AND PROGRAMME FUNDS

COUNTRY: EASTERN CARIBBEAN	Number of posts	Amount (Thousands of United States dollars)
FINANCED FROM 1992-1993 APPROVED BUDGET: a/		
International Professional established posts	2	478
Local national Professional and General Service established posts	7	523
Operating costs		858
Total	9	1859
FINANCED FROM PROGRAMME FUNDS: b/		
International Professional project posts		
General resources	4	787
Supplementary funds		
Local national Professional and General Service project posts		
General resources	8	647
Supplementary funds	2	228
Total	14	1662

a/ The Eastern Carribean administrative budget does not include budget for the Guyana office.

b/ For information source, see the 1992 revised post authorization table, dated 23 July 1991.